



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Groothuis *et al.*

Appl. No.: 10/694,944

Filed: October 29, 2003

For: **Distal Protection Device for
Filtering and Occlusion**

Confirmation No.: 6136

Art Unit: 3763

Examiner: *To Be Assigned*

Atty. Docket: P1237 (1737.2640000)

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying PTO/SB/08a and PTO/SB/08b forms are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO/SB/08a and PTO/SB/08b forms based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent

application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☐ 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- ☒ 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- ☐ 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first

cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

☐ c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$_____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

☐ 4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$_____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:

☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

- ☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.
- ☒ 6. An English abstract of the non-English language documents, Doc. Nos. BA1, BB1, BC1, and BD1 are provided herewith.
- ☒ 7. Copies of the U.S. Patent documents are not submitted herewith because this application was filed after June 30, 2003. *See* 1273 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 55, published August 5, 2003. Copies of the foreign patents and non-patent publications are submitted herewith (i.e., Doc Nos. BA1-BF1, BA2-BC2, and CA1).
- ☐ 8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. _____, filed

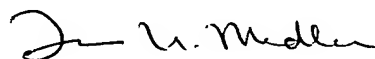
_____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §
120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO/SB/08a and PTO/SB/08b forms, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

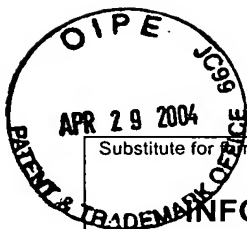
STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Teresa U. Medler
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,933

Date: April 29, 2004

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(202) 371-2600



Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete If Known

Sheet	1	of	9	Application Number	10/694,944
				Filing Date	October 29, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Adam GROOTHUIS
				Art Unit	3763
				Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	P1237 (1737.2640000)

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (If Known)			
	AA1	US-3,540,431	11-17-1970	Mobin-Uddin	
	AB1	US-3,952,747	04-27-1976	Kimmell, Jr.	
	AC1	US-4,425,908	01-17-1984	Simon	
	AD1	US-4,494,531	01-22-1985	Gianturco	
	AE1	US-4,577,631	03-25-1986	Kreamer	
	AF1	US-4,619,246	10-28-1986	Molgaard-Nielsen <i>et al.</i>	
	AG1	US-4,643,184	02-17-1987	Mobin-Uddin	
	AH1	US-4,662,885	05-05-1987	DiPisa, Jr.	
	AI1	US-4,688,553	08-25-1987	Metals	
	AJ1	US-4,723,549	02-09-1988	Wholey <i>et al.</i>	
	AK1	US-4,727,873	03-01-1988	Mobin-Uddin	
	AL1	US-4,765,332	08-23-1988	Fischell <i>et al.</i>	
	AM1	US-4,772,258	09-20-1988	Marangoni <i>et al.</i>	
	AN1	US-4,790,812	12-13-1988	Hawkins, Jr. <i>et al.</i>	
	AO1	US-4,794,928	01-03-1989	Kletschka	
	AP1	US-4,817,600	04-04-1989	Herms <i>et al.</i>	
	AQ1	US-4,842,579	06-27-1989	Shiber	
	AR1	US-4,873,978	10-17-1989	Ginsburg	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	BA1	DE 3417738 A1	11-14-1985	Hengst Walter GmbH & Co. KG		
	BB1	DE 3900517 A1	07-20-1989	MO Med Inst. Pirogova		
	BC1	DE 4030998 C2	04-18-1991	Strecker		
	BD1	FR 2580504	10-24-1986	Pieronne		
	BE1	WO 92/03097	03-05-1992	EVI corp.		
	BF1	WO 93/12723	07-08-1993	SciMed Life Systems, Inc.		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete If Known			
				Application Number		10/694,944	
				Filing Date		October 29, 2003	
				First Named Inventor		Adam GROOTHUIS	
				Art Unit		3763	
				Examiner Name		To Be Assigned	
Sheet	2	of	9	Attorney Docket Number		P1237 (1737.2640000)	

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (If Known)			
	AA2	US-4,921,484	05-01-1990	Hillstead	
	AB2	US-4,926,858	05-22-1990	Gifford, III <i>et al.</i>	
	AC2	US-4,943,297	07-24-1990	Saveliev <i>et al.</i>	
	AD2	US-4,957,501	09-18-1990	Lahille <i>et al.</i>	
	AE2	US-4,990,156	02-05-1991	Lefebvre	
	AF2	US-5,011,488	04-30-1991	Ginsburg	
	AG2	US-5,053,008	10-01-1991	Bajaj	
	AH2	US-5,074,871	12-24-1991	Groshong	
	AI2	US-5,090,960	02-25-1992	Don Michael	
	AJ2	US-5,092,839	03-03-1992	Kipperman	
	AK2	US-5,102,415	04-07-1992	Guenther <i>et al.</i>	
	AL2	US-5,108,418	04-28-1992	Lefebvre	
	AM2	US-5,108,419	04-28-1992	Reger <i>et al.</i>	
	AN2	US-5,133,733	07-28-1992	Rasmussen <i>et al.</i>	
	AO2	US-5,147,379	09-15-1992	Sabbaghian <i>et al.</i>	
	AP2	US-5,152,777	10-06-1992	Goldberg <i>et al.</i>	
	AQ2	US-5,160,342	11-03-1992	Reger <i>et al.</i>	
	AR2	US-5,234,458	08-10-1993	Metals	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	BA2	WO 94/12136	06-09-1994	Boston Scientific Corp.		
	BB2	WO 96/01591	01-25-1996	Microvena Corp.		
	BC2	WO 99/22673	05-14-1999	C.R. Bard, Inc.		
	BD2					
	BE2					
	BF2					

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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		Number-Kind Code ² (If Known)			
	AA3	US-5,242,462	09-07-1993	El-Nounou <i>et al.</i>	
	AB3	US-5,300,086	04-05-1994	Gory <i>et al.</i>	
	AC3	US-5,324,304	06-28-1994	Rasmussen	
	AD3	US-5,329,942	07-19-1994	Gunther <i>et al.</i>	
	AE3	US-5,344,427	09-06-1994	Cottenceau <i>et al.</i>	
	AF3	US-5,350,398	09-27-1994	Pavcnik <i>et al.</i>	
	AG3	US-5,370,657	12-06-1994	Irie	
	AH3	US-5,375,612	12-27-1994	Cottenceau <i>et al.</i>	
	AI3	US-5,376,094	12-27-1994	Kline	
	AJ3	US-5,383,887	01-24-1995	Nadal	
	AK3	US-5,413,586	05-09-1995	Dibie <i>et al.</i>	
	AL3	US-5,415,630	05-16-1995	Gory <i>et al.</i>	
	AM3	US-5,421,832	06-06-1995	Lefebvre	
	AN3	US-5,484,424	01-16-1996	Cottenceau <i>et al.</i>	
	AO3	US-5,531,788	07-02-1996	Dibie <i>et al.</i>	
	AP3	US-5,549,626	08-27-1996	Miller <i>et al.</i>	
	AQ3	US-5,601,595	02-11-1997	Smith	
	AR3	US-5,626,605	05-06-1997	Irie <i>et al.</i>	

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		Number-Kind Code ² (If Known)			
	AA4	US-5,649,953	07-22-1997	Lefebvre	
	AB4	US-5,681,347	10-28-1997	Cathcart <i>et al.</i>	
	AC4	US-5,683,411	11-04-1997	Kavteladze <i>et al.</i>	
	AD4	US-5,695,518	12-09-1997	Laerum	
	AE4	US-5,695,519	12-09-1997	Summers <i>et al.</i>	
	AF4	US-5,720,764	02-24-1998	Naderlinger	
	AG4	US-5,725,550	03-10-1998	Nadal	
	AH4	US-5,746,758	05-05-1998	Nordgren <i>et al.</i>	
	AI4	US-5,746,767	05-05-1998	Smith	
	AJ4	US-5,755,790	05-26-1998	Chevillon <i>et al.</i>	
	AK4	US-5,769,816	06-23-1998	Barbut <i>et al.</i>	
	AL4	US-5,795,322	08-18-1998	Boudewijn	
	AM4	US-5,800,457	09-01-1998	Gelbfish	
	AN4	US-5,800,525	09-01-1998	Bachinski <i>et al.</i>	
	AO4	US-5,810,874	09-22-1998	Lefebvre	
	AP4	US-5,814,064	09-29-1998	Daniel <i>et al.</i>	
	AQ4	US-5,827,324	10-27-1998	Cassell <i>et al.</i>	
	AR4	US-5,836,968	11-17-1998	Simon et al	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
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Sheet	5	of	9	Attorney Docket Number	P1237 (1737.2640000)

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		Number-Kind Code ² (If Known)			
	AA5	US-5,836,969	11-17-1998	Kim <i>et al.</i>	
	AB5	US-5,846,260	12-08-1998	Maahs	
	AC5	US-5,853,420	12-29-1998	Chevillon <i>et al.</i>	
	AD5	US-5,876,367	03-02-1999	Kaganov <i>et al.</i>	
	AE5	US-3,521,620	07-28-1970	Cook	
	AF5	US-3,966,938	06-29-1976	Ott <i>et al.</i>	
	AG5	US-4,456,017	06-26-1984	Miles	
	AH5	US-4,664,113	05-12-1987	Frisbie <i>et al.</i>	
	AI5	US-4,682,599	07-28-1987	Konomura	
	AJ5	US-4,719,924	01-19-1988	Crittenden <i>et al.</i>	
	AK5	US-4,723,549	02-09-1988	Wholey <i>et al.</i>	
	AL5	US-4,723,936	02-09-1988	Buchbinder <i>et al.</i>	
	AM5	US-4,727,873	03-01-1988	Mobin-Uddin	
	AN5	US-4,793,348	12-27-1988	Palmaz	
	AO5	US-4,794,928	01-03-1989	Kletschka	
	AP5	US-4,848,342	07-18-1989	Kaltenbach	
	AQ5	US-5,002,560	03-26-1991	Machold <i>et al.</i>	
	AR5	US-5,041,093	08-20-1991	Chu	

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
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³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete If Known	
				Application Number	10/694,944
				Filing Date	October 29, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Adam GROOTHUIS
				Art Unit	3763
				Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Sheet	6	of	9	Attorney Docket Number	P1237 (1737.2640000)

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA6	US-5,071,407	12-10-1991	Termin <i>et al.</i>	
	AB6	US-5,114,403	05-19-1992	Clarke <i>et al.</i>	
	AC6	US-5,135,487	08-04-1992	Morrill <i>et al.</i>	
	AD6	US-5,161,427	11-10-1992	Fukuda <i>et al.</i>	
	AE6	US-5,397,305	03-14-1995	Kawula <i>et al.</i>	
	AF6	US-5,397,306	03-14-1995	Nobuyoshi <i>et al.</i>	
	AG6	US-5,480,382	01-02-1996	Hammerslag <i>et al.</i>	
	AH6	US-5,800,391	09-01-1998	Kontos	
	AI6	US-5,827,324	10-27-1998	Cassell <i>et al.</i>	
	AJ6	US-5,865,800	02-02-1999	Mirarchi <i>et al.</i>	
	AK6	US-5,911,734	06-15-1999	Tsugita <i>et al.</i>	
	AL6	US-5,935,139	08-10-1999	Bates	
	AM6	US-5,972,019	10-26-1999	Engelson <i>et al.</i>	
	AN6	US-6,051,014	04-18-2000	Jang	
	AO6	US-6,066,158	05-23-2000	Engelson <i>et al.</i>	
	AP6	US-6,090,097	07-18-2000	Barbut <i>et al.</i>	
	AQ6	US-6,123,715	09-26-2000	Amplatz	
	AR6	US-6,165,200	12-26-2000	Tsugita <i>et al.</i>	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

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				Filing Date	October 29, 2003
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				Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Sheet	7	of	9	Attorney Docket Number	P1237 (1737.2640000)

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		Number-Kind Code ² (If Known)			
	AA7	US-6,171,327	01-09-2001	Daniel <i>et al.</i>	
	AB7	US-6,179,859	01-30-2001	Bates <i>et al.</i>	
	AC7	US-6,203,552	03-20-2001	Bagley <i>et al.</i>	
	AD7	US-6,235,044	05-22-2001	Root <i>et al.</i>	
	AE7	US-6,258,115	07-10-2001	Dubrul	
	AF7	US-6,264,672	07-24-2001	Fisher	
	AG7	US-6,277,138	08-21-2001	Levinson <i>et al.</i>	
	AH7	US-6,277,139	08-21-2001	Levinson <i>et al.</i>	
	AI7	US-6,325,815	12-04-2001	Kusleika <i>et al.</i>	
	AJ7	US-6,336,934	01-08-2002	Gilson <i>et al.</i>	
	AK7	US-6,346,116	02-12-2002	Brooks <i>et al.</i>	
	AL7	US-6,364,895	04-02-2002	Greenhalgh	
	AM7	US-6,368,339	04-09-2002	Amplatz	
	AN7	US-6,375,670	04-23-2002	Greenhalgh	
	AO7	US-6,395,014	05-28-2002	Macoviak <i>et al.</i>	
	AP7	US-6,398,773	06-04-2002	Bagaoisan <i>et al.</i>	
	AQ7	US-6,432,122	08-13-2002	Gilson <i>et al.</i>	
	AR7	US-4,080,706	03-28-1978	Heilman <i>et al.</i>	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <div style="text-align: center;"> INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT </div> (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete If Known	
				Application Number	10/694,944
				Filing Date	October 29, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Adam GROOTHUIS
				Art Unit	3763
				Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	P1237 (1737.2640000)

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				Application Number		10/694,944	
				Filing Date		October 29, 2003	
				First Named Inventor		Adam GROOTHUIS	
				Art Unit		3763	
				Examiner Name		To Be Assigned	
Sheet	9	of	9	Attorney Docket Number		P1237 (1737.2640000)	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
	CA1	PALESTRANT, Aubrey M, <i>et al.</i> , <u>Comparative In Vitro Evaluation of the Nitinol Inferior Vena Cava Filter</u> , Radiology 145:351-355, November 1982.	

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*Admitted only in Virginia
*Practice Limited to Federal Agencies

April 29, 2004

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TMEDLER@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit 3763
Examiner: To Be Assigned
Confirmation No.: 6136

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 10/694,944; Filed: October 29, 2003
For: **Distal Protection Device for Filtering and Occlusion**
Inventors: Groothuis *et al.*
Our Ref: P1237 (1737.2640000)

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. List of Documents Cited on Forms PTO/SB/08a and PTO/SB/08b (9 pages);
3. Copy of ten (10) documents cited on Forms PTO/SB/08a and PTO/SB/08b (Doc. Nos. BA1-BF1, BA2-BC2, and CA1); and
4. One (1) return postcard.

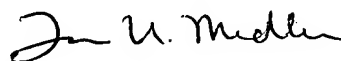
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
April 29, 2004
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Teresa U. Medler
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,933

TUM/MJM/awt
Enclosures

252404_1.DOC